

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Korea

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INFO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Political Information: Controls Encountered  
on a Trip through North Korea

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

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EVALUATION OF SOURCE

EVALUATION OF CONTENT

1. No special permits or papers are required for travel as yet. It is necessary to carry the individual identification card issued by the Peoples Committee as this card is frequently checked. The local district leader of the district in which the traveler is registered is to be informed of any trips about to be taken but this regulation is very loosely complied with.
2. All individuals are usually subjected to a routine check after the purchase of their railroad tickets and before boarding the train. This is conducted by a plainclothes inspector who is usually a member of the Railway Peace Preservation Corps. Because of the lack of time and the many individuals involved this is a limited interrogation and consists only of inquiries regarding the traveler's destination and purpose, and an inspection of the traveler's personal identification card. Passengers boarding the train at smaller stations are subjected to a more detailed questioning before being allowed to board the train.
3. Another, more detailed check is conducted after the train has started. With the exception of the trip between Sinuiju (Shingishu) (124-24,40-06) and Pyongyang (Heijo) (125-44,39-01), the check was always conducted by three Koreans, two in the uniform of the Railway Peace Preservation Corps and one, an older man, in plain clothes. All passengers were required to show their personal identification cards and some were subjected to a more detailed questioning. Those questioned in detail were usually young people, particularly those who were well dressed and who did not resemble laborers, farmers or merchants. The number of people questioned seemed to depend upon the mood of the inspector, who sometimes questioned almost everyone in the car and other times, only a few. Questions asked most frequently were: Where are you going? What is the purpose of your trip? Where are you from? Why do you have so much money? Who is your section leader? What is your home address? Questions were often asked about the information contained on the personal identification card, the answers being checked against the card to determine whether the traveler was familiar with his own card.

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NO CHANGE IN Class. ☐

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Questions were often asked about local conditions in the home district of the card holder. Personal search of individuals and baggage was frequently made, particularly when there was anything about a traveler to arouse suspicion. The inspection on the train between Sinuiju and Chongju (Teishu) (125-12,39-42) was conducted by only two inspectors, both in plain clothes. Particular attention was paid to any passenger whose destination was south of Pyongyang. This inspection was one of the most strict of the trip.

4. The following inspections were made during the train trip:

Sinuiju station	Routine check. Identification cards shown.
Sinuiju to Chongju	Three inspections, one immediately preceding arrival at Chongju. Search of persons and baggage made.
Pyongyang to Wonsan (Genzan) (127-26,39-10)	Routine station inspection at Pyongyang before leaving. Several checks made on way to Wonsan. Several passengers questioned but examination less strict than that between Sinuiju and Pyongyang. First inspection took place one hour after departure of the train.
Wonsan station	Routine station inspection before boarding train to Hamhung (Kanko) (127-32,39-54).
Wonsan to Hamhung	Inspection immediately preceding arrival at Hamhung. Several passengers questioned. About the same degree of strictness as exercised between Pyongyang and Wonsan.
Hamhung station	Routine station inspection before boarding train to Nanam (Ranan) (129-41,41-42).
Hamhung to Nanam	One inspection of identification cards.
Return Trip	
Chongjin (Seishin) (129-49,41-46) station	There was no routine examination at this station prior to departure of the train.
Chongjin to Pyongyang	Three inspections
Pyongyang to Sinuiju	Routine station inspection at Pyongyang. Two inspections between Pyongyang and Sinuiju. Particular attention paid to any travelers from south part of North Korea.

No road barriers or checks were encountered between the cities of Chongju and Pyongyang nor between the cities of Nanam and Chongjin.

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5. In addition to the above inspections which took place in railway stations or on board trains, the following inspections were made during the trip:

Road inspection

Between Sinuiju and Uiju (Gishu) (124-32, 40-12) at Yonha-dong (124-28, 40-08), a public bus was stopped; all passengers were required to show their identification cards and were questioned by three members of the Korean Peace Preservation Corps, who wore khaki uniforms and who came out on the road upon hearing the vehicle approaching. They were armed with Japanese-type M-38 rifles. A personal search of the individuals and their baggage was made and the questions asked were generally the same as those asked by inspectors on the trains, the answers being checked against the information on the identification cards. In comparison to other stations, this station was lax in its questioning. If the passenger was from some other area of North Korea, however, the questioning was much more strict.

Hotel investigation

All travelers stopping in the hotel at Kanni (간리) (Chonni---125-38, 39-10?), a small village, are investigated by a regular patrol of three or four plain-clothes men who belong to the Peace Preservation Corps. This patrol also checks the hotel daily and questions all travelers. One reason for the extensive questioning may be that Soviet troops are billeted in the town.

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